

institution, insurance company, utilization reviewer and employer. Cummings, Jr. teaches that the disclosed system provides patients with complete and comprehensive treatment with predetermined financial support therefor.

5 Cummings, Jr., teaches that the disclosed integrated system improves efficiency thereby reducing costs. Cummings, Jr. teaches that costs are reduced by enforcing "health wellness" principles and by integrating preventive medical programs with treatment programs. Additionally, the '105 patent discloses that the integrated system includes utilization review
10 customized according to predetermined criteria including both concurrent and retrospective utilization review. The Cummings, Jr., patent teaches that the system includes comprehensive preventive health measures, the review of the necessity for implementing selected procedures including changes in life styles, obtaining second opinions, and optimization of health-inducing
15 diet and life style factors.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method for providing a fully-integrated health organization system which includes patient data,
20 utilization review, quality assurance, quality of improvement, and the acquisition of quality of life and economic data including a standard format and critical pathway of care which provides for reference costs to be set and reassessed based upon the quality or desirability of the outcome of the treatment considering the patient's quality of life and economic improve-
25 ment. The present invention also provides for the availability of physician and facility evaluations regarding the outcome of treatment in reference to other facilities and physicians. Finally, the method of the present invention incorporates a status check to ensure the timeliness of providing of treatment by refusing reimbursement to the health care provider or treating
30 physician for the failure to timely render treatment.